

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125755
ORIGIN OES-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125755

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: XQ, SV, TGEN

SUBJECT:U.S. SCIENCE PROJECTS ON SVALBARD

REFERENCES: (A) OSLO 2125; (B) STATE 106988;
(C) STATE 97522

1. THE FIVE U.S. SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS ON SVALBARD IN THE
COMING SUMMER REPRESENT, IN THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, A VERY
SUBSTANTIAL U.S. PRESENCE IN THE ARCHIPELAGO, AND
CERTAINLY NOT A VOID. FURTHERMORE, SEVERAL OF THE
PROJECTS ARE CONTINUING IN NATURE.

2. REGRETTABLE AS THE SHELIVING OF THE NANSEN DRIFT STATION
PROJECT IS, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND IN CONVERSATIONS
WITH NORWEGIANS, THAT NO SUSTAINED U.S. PRESENCE ON
SVALBARD WAS EVER CONTEMPLATED AS PART OF THE PROJECT AND
SUPPLYING THE IMPACTED ICE BREAKER FROM SPITSBERGEN WAS
A MINOR, EPHEMERAL ASPECT.

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3. WHILE WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO PROPOSE ANY
NEW SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS TO REPLACE THE NANSEN DRIFT
STATION PROJECT, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO HEAR ANY THOUGHTS
NORWEGIANS MIGHT HAVE FOR JOINT SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN
THE AREA, AS WE NOTED IN REFERENCE (C).
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Message Attributes

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